

Hyphenated Americans



"The Hyphenated American," *Puck*, August 9, 1899

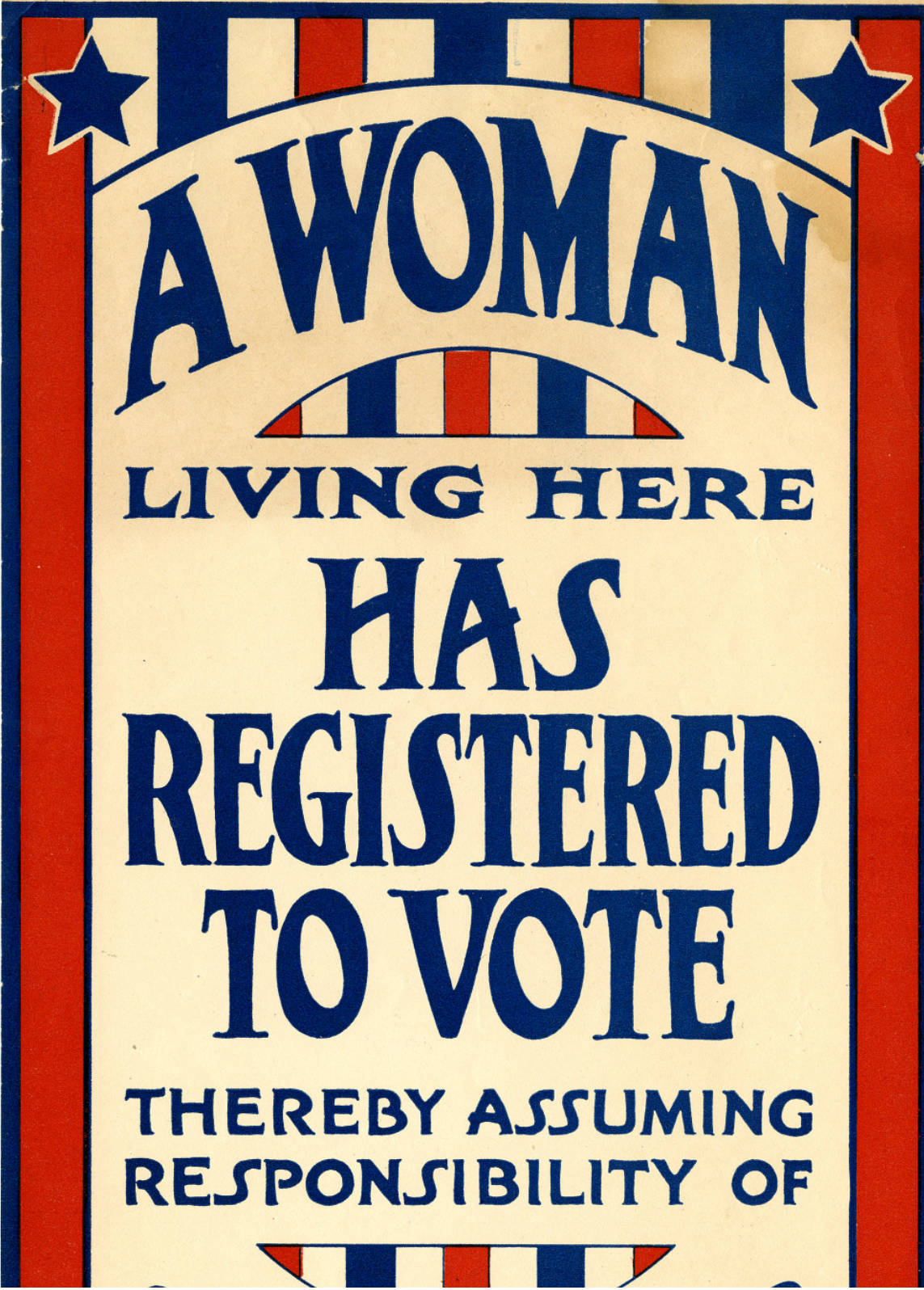
Courtesy of The Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

Americans are proud to be part of a nation of immigrants, but some were reluctant to share the ballot box with more recent arrivals. Worried that they might compete with them for political power, they questioned the loyalty, political philosophies, religions, and self-interest of each new group. Tying voting to citizenship, combined with stringent voter eligibility requirements, lessened the gains and electoral impact of late 19th- and early 20th-century immigrant groups. New waves of immigrants furthered concern over identity politics based on race, ethnicity, and class long after individuals became American citizens.

The Responsibilities of Citizenship

In 1919 and 1920 “get out the vote” campaigns in Grand Rapids, Michigan, aimed to register the state’s newly enfranchised women, promote voting, and encourage immigrants to become naturalized citizens so that they too could vote.

Hang one of these in your window for each woman registered.
Leave it there until March 1st. Cut this off before displaying.
Americanization Society, 318 Shepard Building. Citizens 8315—Bell 40, Grand Rapids, Mich.



A WOMAN

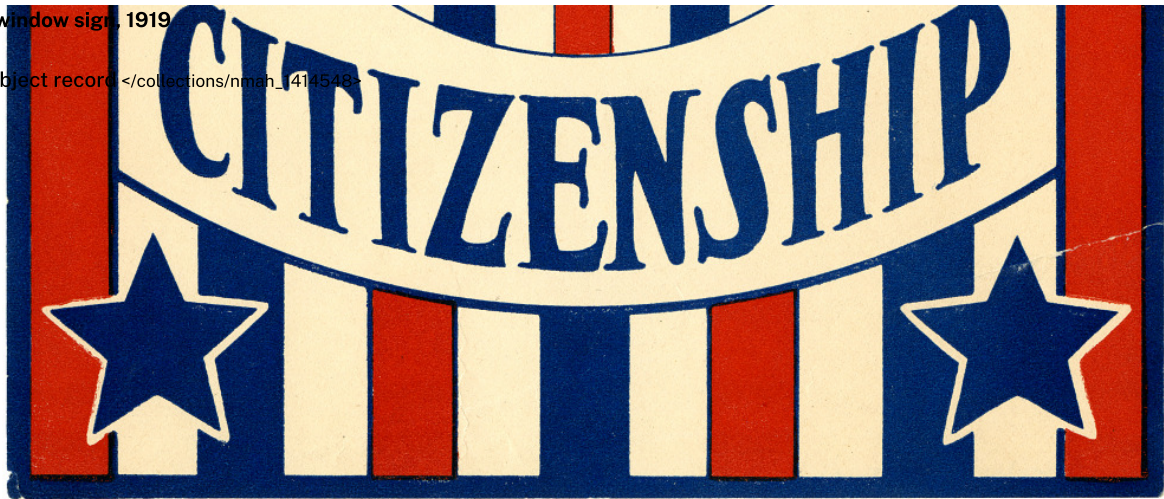
LIVING HERE

**HAS
REGISTERED
TO VOTE**

**THEREBY ASSUMING
RESPONSIBILITY OF**

Voter window sign, 1919

[View object record </collections/nmah_414548>](#)



Out in the Cold

Although women were eventually enfranchised in 1920, Chinese immigrants were still barred from citizenship, and the vote, until 1943. Their American-born children had been accepted as citizens and eligible voters since 1898.



ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK AS SECOND CLASS MATTER, COPYRIGHT 1881 BY THE JUDGE PUBLISHING CO.

Price

NEW YORK, MARCH 22, 1884.

10 Cents.



OUT IN THE COLD.

FRANKLIN SQUARE LITH. CO. NEW YORK.

"Out in the Cold," *The Judge*, March 22, 1884

Gift of Ralph E. Becker Collection of Political Americana

Voting Rights and Civil Rights

Drawing on the successes of the African American civil rights movement and federal legislation, Latino and Asian American community activists formed organizations to fight for civil, social, and voting rights.



Photograph of a 1950s California voter registration drive

Founded in 1947, the Community Service Organization (CSO) led voter registration drives in Los Angeles and throughout California. Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

SAFEWAY



86

Vote Ud. como quiera.
Pero vote. ¡Nos
vemos en las casillas!
el 7 de nov.

十一月七日は選挙の日
みんなこぞで選挙しよう

Bumoto kayo kahit kanino.
Pero bumoto kayo.
Magkita-kita tayo sa
botohan sa Nobiyembre 7.



See you at the polls! Nov. 7

Wähle wie du willst,
aber wähle! Wir
treffen uns im
wahllokal, am 7. Nov.

Votino come vogliono
ma votino. Ci vediamo
il giorno delle elezioni,
il 7 novembre.

請於十一月七日
到選舉站
投票
由快選

Votez comme il vous plaira
mais votez. Nous vous
verrons le jour des
elections, le 7 novembre.

**DOUBLE BAGGING IS NOT NEEDED
WITH THIS DOUBLE STRENGTH BAG**

"Vote" shopping bag, 1976

[View object record </collections/nmah_493095>](#)



Photograph of a 1977 voter registration drive in San Francisco

In the 1970s members of Chinese for Affirmative Action ran registration campaigns and demanded bilingual ballots for San Francisco voters.

Courtesy of Russ Lowe, San Francisco Journal



English/Spanish/Chinese poll sign, 2014

Since 1975, voting districts with significant populations of Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Asian Americans, and Latinos have been required to provide ballots and instructions in applicable languages. Signs like these were used in San Francisco polling places.
Gift of City and County of San Francisco Department of Elections

[View object record </collections/nmah_1757120>](#)

Open every day, except December 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Location & Contact

1300 Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20560 <<https://www.google.com/maps/place/smithsonian+national+museum+of+american+history/@38.8912835,-77.0322449,17z>>

Contact Information </about/contact>

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